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scenes more fitting for England in the time of the Charleses; and the minute description of the library and furniture of the palace of the King of Iran would serve as well for a château of France in the time of Louis XIV. A. H. N.

BEHIND THE DARK PINES. By Martha Young. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

BYPATHS IN DIXIE. By Sarah Johnson Cocke. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co.

THE UNMANNERLY TIGER AND OTHER KOREAN TALES; and THE FIRE-FLY'S LOVERS AND OTHER FAIRY TALES OF OLD JAPAN. By William Elliott Griffis. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.

These four volumes form an exceedingly interesting group of folk-tales, two of them dealing with the animal stories of the Southern negro made familiar by Joel Chandler Harris, and two containing stories from the far East,—Korea and Japan. Both Miss Young and Mrs. Cocke, though following in the footsteps of Harris, are in no sense mere imitators, and each in an individual way has contributed her share towards perpetuating the memory of one noble figure in Southern life before the civil war,—the black Mammy. Surely in a niche of fame side by side with Uncle Remus the Southern Mammy deserves a conspicuous and honored place. In an introduction to Mrs. Cocke's book, Mr. Harry Stillwell Edwards justly praises her for her picture of the "wise-old Mammy",—that loved and dreaded dictator of our fathers and mothers,—but he goes too far in attributing to Mrs. Cocke pioneer work in this field and in declaring that hitherto "the very heart-center of Southern civilization had not been touched". Mr. Harris himself introduced the Mammy into his tales, and Mrs. Pynelle has furnished one of the finest portraits of the type in her delightful little volume, *Diddie, Dumps, and Tot*, a book to which Mrs. Cocke would be prompt in paying tribute.

In Miss Young's book Mammy keeps herself discreetly in the background, as do the children to whom she tells the tales. We learn to know Mammy only through the stories themselves and through the brief, crisp moral, which is no essential part of the folk-tale itself, but which grew naturally out of

the religious training received from master and mistress and is prompted by her sense of responsibility for the spiritual welfare of the white children entrusted to her care. Her moral in every case is apt, pointed, and characteristic of the negro mind. In reading them one is reminded of the Æsopian fables and of the Indian jatakas, though in aptness of phrase, pithiness of thought, sincerity of feeling, and skilful application to the needs of her hearers, this old black Mammy far surpasses the frequently long, clumsy, and far-fetched moral applications deduced by the Greek and Indian fabulists. The stories themselves are brief, often highly dramatic, and true to the negro character. In them as in Uncle Remus's tales the rabbit is the leader in all devilment, the trickster who rarely meets his match. The book is made attractive by the illustrations of J. M. Condé, who in representing Brer Rabbit, Brer Buzzard, Mr. Snake, Brer Flea, and other beasts, birds, and insects in these tales, holds a place second only to A. B. Frost.

In contrast to Miss Young's book, the tales in *Bypaths in Dixie* are much longer and more diffuse; and Mammy Phyllis, the narrator, absorbs a very large, though not undue, share of attention, as do Willis and Mary Van, who, like all children, by their frequent questioning interrupt the stories to the vexation of Mammy as well as the reader. Brer Rabbit does not appear in these stories, in which Miss Race Hoss, Ned Dog, Mister Rooster, Mister Rattlesnake, Big-Eye Buzzard, and Mister Grab-All Spider are some of the leading characters. The tales reveal an intimate and affectionate knowledge of the old-time negroes, and reproduce faithfully their ways of speech, their manner of thought, and their relation to the white folks. One of the cleverest pieces in the book is the Afterword, in which the author apologizes for and explains her failure to provide as a preface to her volume a tribute in verse to old Mammy. In applying to herself the brutally frank criticism of Mammy, "Hit taint time you orter be cryin' fer, hit's sense", Mrs. Cocke disarms criticism, makes the reader feel that she is herself her most severe critic, and leads us to expect even better things from her pen. It is to be regretted, however, that the illustrations inadequately reproduce the characters and the spirit of the stories.

The tales from Korea and from Japan collected by Dr. Griffis also deal, as we should expect, in many cases with the birds and the beasts, and frequently afford striking analogues to the negro tales. In the Korean stories we find the rabbit, or hare, to be the same tricky, resourceful little animal whose antics delighted Miss Sally's little boy on the Southern plantation. Lured to the bottom of the sea by the turtle, he learns of a plot to take out his eyes in order to cure the King of the Fishes, and on pretext of securing his real eyes, which he pretends are buried in the sand on the seashore, having substituted for them crystal eyes during his submarine journey, persuades his stupid captor, the turtle, to carry him back to land again. In another tale, he outwits old White-Whiskers, the tiger, and almost burns him to death. One of the most interesting of these Korean tales is entitled "The Woodman", which offers a perfect analogue to the Rip Van Winkle story, though it lacks one especially striking feature found in the Chinese fairy tales (see Hartwell James, *The Jeweled Sea*), namely, the journey of the hero to the moon, where he finds the wise Moon-Hare and through him receives an elixir by which he is completely restored to the past and to his family. In the Japanese tales the Badger is a more common beast and performs many remarkable tricks. In the stories of both these countries, as compared with the negro tales, there is, of course, far more of the fanciful and fantastic. One feels, however, in reading Dr. Griffis's collection that unfortunately little effort has been made to reproduce faithfully the language and style of the native story-teller, as is done in the folk-tales of the South.

THE WAYS OF THE PLANETS. By Martha Evans Martin. New York: Harper & Bros.

In this volume the author seeks to "give a simple account of what may now be said to be known of the character of the planets, to describe their movements and aspects and relations", and in untechnical language to furnish such directions that, with a little practice, one can readily learn to distinguish the planets among the fixed stars and to tell one from another. The